

BIRTHDAY OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on June 19, 1945, Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was born in Rangoon, Burma, to Ma Khin Kyi and Aung San.

Some speculate that she was destined to be a defender of freedom in Burma, as her father was the commander of the Burma Independence Army. Tragedy struck the family exactly 1 month after Suu Kyi's second birthday when General Aung San was assassinated. The family's loss was mourned by the entire nation.

As Burma's military leaders were to find out decades later, Suu Kyi has freedom and justice coursing through her veins. She has been a tireless advocate for the rights and welfare of the Burmese people and has sacrificed—along with other Burmese democrats—much in struggle for democracy in Burma.

Suu Kyi is a symbol of courage and determination for the world's oppressed. She is a shining example that principles are stronger than repression. Suu Kyi and other democrats have yet to surrender to the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, despite relentless attempts by the junta to bend and break their will.

How is Suu Kyi celebrating her 58th birthday? Most likely, she is not. I suspect she is alone and in Insein prison.

In the wake of a violent ambush by the junta on her convoy on May 30, Suu Kyi was arrested by the SPDC. Although U.N. Special Envoy Razali briefly saw her 2 weeks ago—and conveyed to an anxious world that she was not physically injured in the attack—we haven't seen or heard from her since.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, requested a meeting with Suu Kyi, but the thugs in Rangoon refused. Unbelievable, outrageous—but not surprising considering the regime's track record.

It should not be lost on anyone that the denial of an ICRC visit means Suu Kyi is being treated worse than a prisoner of war.

The best gift the free world can give Suu Kyi on her birthday is a full court press on the junta. Sanctions, import bans, and statements condemning the SPDC's outrageous actions will help buoy the spirits of the Burmese people and confirm that the international community is on their side.

The best gift the administration can give Suu Kyi is an import ban and the downgrading of diplomatic relations with the SPDC. The White House should not wait for the House to act on its legislation but should implement a ban on imports immediately.

Finally, the best gift I can give Suu Kyi is a commitment to continue to stand with her and the people of Burma for as long as it takes for freedom's triumph. She and her compatriots continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO JANINE JOHNSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we make many different kinds of speeches on the Senate floor. Some of those speeches seek to advance legislation and amendments and some aim to commemorate historic events. None are as sad as those we make in the memory of a member of the Senate family who has left us. On May 29, 2003, Janine Johnson, Assistant Counsel in the Senate's Office of Legislative Counsel, passed away. Janine was 37 years old.

Many of us and our staffs knew Janine personally. Some of us only knew her only by her initials that appeared on the legislation and amendments we introduce here on the floor. She served the Senate for nearly 13 years, doing much of her work for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Agriculture Committee and the Energy Committee.

Over the years, Janine prepared thousands of bills for me and for the other members of the Environment Committee. Her expertise in those matters made my job easier and the jobs of the staff easier on countless bills. Janine was an expert drafter on matters of critical concern to the committee. She drafted several generations of Water Resources Development Acts. She drafted our last transportation bill, the mammoth Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, and was in the process of drafting a new transportation bill when she fell ill. She drafted many parts of the last Farm bill, including the nutrition title of that bill. I mention that because I am told that no one has found a single drafting error in the hundreds of pages of that title.

That is very rare, but I am told by her colleagues that Janine's way was the way of a perfectionist.

And to her about Janine's history is to hear that it was a way of life. Janine was a native of Winchester, MA. She graduated first in her class from Winchester High School and ultimately graduated with high honors from Harvard Law School in 1986. She went on to clerk for the Honorable Cecil Poole on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she came to the Senate Office of Legislative Counsel. In addition to serving as Assistant Counsel, she was active in shaping the office itself. She interviewed new attorneys for the office, and she had an unparalleled ability to recognize those who would maintain the high standards of the Senate. That legacy will live on in the colleagues and friends she helped to bring into the Senate family.

According to Janine's friends here in the Senate, she loved life outside the Senate as much as her work within it. Janine loved theater, music and swing dancing. I am told that she loved living here in Washington, DC, where one of her favorite times of year was the spring because of her love of our cherry trees and the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The cherry blossom Janine admired is the most beautiful flower in Japa-

nese culture. It symbolizes the Japanese values of simplicity, purity and fleeting beauty. Many poets have described the pink and white blossoms as a metaphor for life, beautiful and simple, yet at the same time sadly ephemeral and fleeting.

Janine's friends in the Senate would say that she was like the flowers she loved to see, but that her memory will not be ephemeral to the Senate, to her work here, or to the many friends and family she leaves behind.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to pay tribute to a very talented, kind and generous member of our Senate family, Janine Johnson. Sadly, at the far too young age of 37, Janine passed away. For the past 13 years, Janine served as Assistant Counsel in the Senate's Office of Legislative Counsel. Some of us were privileged to work with her directly and benefit from her skill and keen intellect.

While many of us over the years have recognized the well-deserved contributions of our staff in our personal offices or on committees, we all know that we depend highly on the exceptional professional judgment and tireless efforts of the staff in the Senate Legislative Counsel's office. While Janine did not work for an individual Senator or Committee, it is without question that Janine was devoted to the institution of the Senate, skilled in the intricacies of the law, and served the Senate with distinction.

Janine was the primary Legislative Counsel for many issues under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It was during my tenure as Chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee that my staff and I were privileged to work with Janine. She was our counsel for the development of the National Highway System Act of 1995, and later on the landmark Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, commonly referred to as TEA-21. Also, during my chairmanship, Janine guided us on the development of several Water Resource Development Acts, that were enacted on a biennial cycle.

It was during those long days and weeks in working in committee, on the Senate floor and later in conference on TEA-21 that we witnessed the exceptional skill, thoroughness and professionalism that Janine brought to every issue. The surface transportation bill expired in the fall of 1997. The Congress passed a 6-month extension bill and we came back in early 1998 to renew our efforts on a full 6-year reauthorization bill. Janine was there with the committee every step of the way.

The staff recollections of Janine's contributions to the development of TEA-21 are unmistakable. I hear of her deep commitment to the law, to turning vague concepts into statute, and faithfully executing the views of the committee and Senator's agreements on complex policy issues. Most importantly, I hear staff use heartfelt words